
Stem cells, Id, and cancer

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Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute posted an interesting item today on their blog Beaker about a talk given as part of the Southern California Stem Cell Consortium. At the invitation of Evan Snyder, Dr. Antonio Iavarone of Columbia University discussed his work with a protein named Id. According to their entry:

“ He described how Id keeps stem cells as stem cells â increasing in number, but not settling down and choosing a specialty. When Dr. Iavarone and his colleagues turned Id off, stem cells were allowed to stop dividing and start differentiating.

“ "We are now beginning to screen chemical libraries to find molecules that target Id," Dr. Iavarone explained. "We believe anti-Id agents will be effective at inhibiting tumor growth."

This type of work will be critical for developing therapies to combat cancer or replace damaged neurons in neurodegenerative diseases.

A.A.

Tags: Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's, Burnham Institute

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